

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

A replacement sheet for Figure 6 is submitted herewith.

The legend "PRIOR ART" has been added.

REMARKS

A new Figure 6 has been entered herewith, in lieu of the original, properly legended as "PRIOR ART".

The informalities in the specification and claims have been corrected. A substitute specification and marked-up copy of the originally-filed specification as submitted herewith. No new matter has been entered.

Claim 23 has been rendered statutory by reciting the step of including the program in a computer-readable medium.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested, for the rejection of the claims as unpatentable over SHIBUTANI in view of ITO, or further in view of KELLY et al.

The rejection falls down on SHIBUTANI.

Notice that SHIBUTAN has a U.S. filing date, and hence a U.S. reference date, of December 16, 2002.

By contrast, the present invention is entitled to its Japanese priority date of November 8, 2002, prior to SHIBUTANI.

Entitlement to our Japanese priority date has been perfected, by filing the accompanying verified translation of Japanese Application No. 2002-325263.

Accordingly, SHIBUTANI is no longer available as a reference, and hence there is no applicable prior art rejection remaining.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, therefore, it is believed that this application has been

placed in condition for allowance, and reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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Appendix:

The Appendix includes the following items:

- amended abstract
- Replacement Sheet for Figure 6
- verified translation of Japanese Application No. 2002-325263
filed November 8, 2002
- substitute specification and marked-up copy of originally-filed
specification